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Bangalore Mirror

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Majority of waterbodies in BBMP ambit have gaps in safety and security of visitors, biodiversity, say regular walkers

HOW SAFE ARE LAKES

'Illegal fishing threatening lake resources and habitat'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

MIE BORG MØRK/PEXELS

Lake walkers across various waterbodies in the city have raised the issue of insufficient security.

They said the city's lakes currently have guards on the general shift from 10 am to 6 pm leaving morning and evening walkers vulnerable.

Regular visitors to the lakes and walkers highlighted that the majority of the waterbodies revived by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have gaps when it comes to the safety and security of walkers and lakes' biodiversity.

Moreover, lack of adequate surveillance is leading to illegal activities at many lakes.

"While we are grateful to the BBMP and local panchayat officials for stationing one security staff from 9 am to 4 pm, to curb trespassing, it is not good that the lake remains unguarded during the evening and early mornings.

This lack of security would only lead to unauthorised users who are using the park for illegal activities like fishing, liquor consumption, etc," said V Selvarajan, founder of Green Circle, a citizens' association working towards the development of Avalahalli Lake in Yelahanka.

According to Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a city-based lake activist, lack of adequate security is leading to illegal fishing activities in some waterbodies. One such lake is Doddakallasandra

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Every lake in the city should have security guards on two shifts, if not round the clock**
>
> — Raghavendra B Pachhapur, city-based lake activist

Even the dead cannot rest in peace

In suspected encroachment attempt, builder allegedly demolishes temple on burial ground

A board put up by revenue department stating that the land is meant for burial ground

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It seems no land in Bengaluru is immune to encroachment. With land prices skyrocketing in the city, land encroachment is thriving without any hurdles.

Thousands of acres of revenue land have been encroached in Bengaluru Urban district. As per the data tabled in Karnataka Legislative Council in last July, around 16,470 acres of revenue land were encroached in Bengaluru.

Now, a struggle is on between the Dalits of Bhoganahalli in Mahadevapura assembly constituency and some builders for the land meant for the burial ground exclusively for Dalits.

The builders allegedly demolished a temple built on the burial ground and are dumping debris on the burial ground, it's been claimed.

A protest was held in front of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Mahadevapura Zone joint commissioner's office on Wednesday demanding restoration of the burial ground. The agitators submitted a memorandum to the joint commissioner.

Appealing to the authorities to restore the burial ground, Ashok Mruthyunjaya of Aam Aadmi Party said that he was threatened by the supporters of a builder as he was videographing the burial ground.

"The land is meant to be a burial ground and not for dumping debris or for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 A night of poetry and reflection

Spend a delightful evening celebrating the launch of 'The Light at the Edges,' an anthology by Deepti Kolte that beautifully captures the essence of life's simple joys. Pause, reflect, and immerse yourself in an interactive conversation between Deepti and Mayank, CEO of a prominent startup and a poet himself. This anthology, resonating with readers from all walks of life, invites you to appreciate the beauty in ordinary moments and find hope in the mundane. Bring your copy for signing or purchase one at the event.
When- March 10, 5 pm; Where- Atta Galatta

02 Creativity and empowerment

"The Urban Solace Arts & Crafts Bazaar," is a special edition celebrating International Women's Month. This event is a showcase of the incredible talent of creative women entrepreneurs in Bangalore. From handmade crafts to unique artworks, this bazaar features a diverse range of products crafted by women who balance multiple responsibilities in their lives. Organised in association with "Pajama Poets," this event promises to be a vibrant celebration of creativity, empowerment, and community. Don't miss out on this opportunity to support and celebrate the creative endeavours of talented women in our city. **When- March 9, 11 am to 7 pm; Where- Urban Solace**

Good job! Talisma inks pact with KSOU

Talisma has signed an MoU with Karnataka State Open University (KSOU). Given that India's national average of student employment is currently only 12.2 per cent, as per a report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, Dr Raj Mruthyunjayappa, Chairman and CEO of Talisma Corporation, stated, "Talisma Jeevika will assist students right from choosing the appropriate course based on their aspirations at the time of joining the University, up until they secure employment. This is a pioneering initiative in India, aimed at addressing the most crucial issue faced by the youth in our country." Talisma will be providing this solution to Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) as its first client. KSOU offers 65 programmes, including UG, PG, Diploma, and certificate courses, catering to over 60,000 distance education students. Additionally, it holds licenses to teach 10 courses online. Talisma Jeevika will recommend improvement areas and encourage students to complete their courses. Concerning employment readiness, the product will identify job market/student fitment, offer personalised skill assessments, and facilitate skill upgrading. **— BMB**

HC nixes board exams for grades 5, 8 and 9

High Court's decision aligns with advocacy for Right to Education and sparks discourse on assessment methods in Indian education system

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In a significant development, the Karnataka High Court has invalidated the notification issued by the state's school education department regarding the conduct of board exams for classes 5, 8, and 9 for students studying under state syllabi. Justice Krishna Dixit, presiding over a single judge bench, rendered this verdict in favour of the Registered Associations of Private Unaided Schools (RUSPA), who argued that the proposed exams were contrary to the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) model mandated by the Right To Education Act (RTE) 2009.

Reacting to this, Lokesh Talikatte of RUPSA said, "Last year, we raised objections, but the exams proceeded nonetheless. This year, we returned to court when the government announced board exams for grades five, eight, nine, and eleven. Our stance against board exams aligns with our support for the Right to Education (RTE) and Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) systems. Conducting board exams would contradict the principles of CCE. While the government assured us exams would be conducted under CCE, we remained sceptical. We are pleased with the court's decision."

The court's decision has addressed the concerns of various stakeholders, particularly private school management associations, regarding the potential negative impact of centralised board exams on student learning. A spokesperson for the Registered Unaided Private Schools Association emphasised the importance of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in assessing students' progress at the school level. They stressed the need to evaluate students' learning journey based on their individual growth rather than through centralised board exams. Furthermore, the ruling highlights the ongoing discourse on the role of assessments in the Indian education system and the necessity to strike a balance between accountability and student well-being. By invalidating the notification, the court has reiterated the significance of upholding the integrity of the CCE framework and ensuring that educational policies align with the principles of inclusivity and holistic development.

Moreover, this ruling signifies a continuation of the legal battle surrounding the introduction of board exams for classes 5 and 8 in the state. Previous attempts by the government to implement similar assessments faced opposition from private school management associations, resulting in legal disputes and subsequent court decisions.

> **"Our stance against board exams aligns with our support for the Right to Education (RTE) and Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) systems** – Lokesh Talikatte, RUPS

In December 2022, Karnataka introduced board assessments for classes 5 and 8 in state-syllabus schools with the aim of evaluating students' learning levels and addressing any educational gaps. Led by the Karnataka School Examinations and Assessment Board, the initiative focused on formative and summative assessments, replacing the conventional detention system with a more inclusive approach.

Brinjal pest management: Advanced technologies implemented

Many households frequently include brinjal in their cooking. However, this vegetable stands out for its heavy use of insecticides compared to other vegetables in the country. This is primarily due to the necessity for farmers to apply insecticides on a weekly basis during the six-month crop cycle (15 to 20 times) to protect the yield from the highly destructive "shoot and fruit borer" (Leucinodes orbonalis) infestation. This pest can cause significant crop losses ranging from 30 to 100 per cent.

"To address this pressing issue, which not only impacts human health and the environment but also poses a significant financial burden on farmers due to crop losses and high insecticide costs, the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) has introduced an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) method. This approach involves integrating various pest management techniques, including mechanical, biological control, lure-based, and limited insecticide sprays as needed.

Early-stage crop management includes the removal and destruction of infested shoots and fruits with boreholes to prevent population buildup," said an official.

Additionally, the Arka Mealy Melt, developed by ICAR-IIHR, is a revolutionary product designed to combat mealybugs using advanced wax solubilising technology. "Mealybugs, soft-bodied insects covered in a mealy wax coating, pose significant challenges to pest management in various crops. Conventional methods often involve repeated spray applications of chemical insecticides or botanical oils, which are less effective due to the protective wax coating on the insects' bodies.

The Arka Mealy Melt utilises a combination of organic solvents capable of dissolving the outer mealy wax layer, exposing the mealybugs and rendering them susceptible to insecticidal activity. Extensive laboratory and field trials have demonstrated the effectiveness of this technology in solubilising mealybug wax and enhancing pest control efforts. This innovative approach represents a breakthrough in mealybug management, offering a comprehensive solution to address the challenges associated with these pests," added the official. **— BMB**

NIA announces Rs 10 lakh for info on bomber, releases pic

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) announced on Wednesday a bounty of Rs 10 lakh for information about the bomber in connection with the blast at The Rameshwaram cafe.

The agency also emphasised that the confidentiality of the informants' identities be maintained.

The agency also released a picture of the bomber, captured from the CCTV footage while keeping a bag in The Rameshwaram Cafe, Brookfield.

In the picture released by the NIA, the bomber is seen wearing a cap, black pants, and black shoes.

"NIA announces a cash reward of 10 lakh rupees for information about the bomber in Rameshwaram Cafe blast case of Bengaluru. Informants' identity will be kept confidential," the NIA said in a post on 'X'.

In the post, the NIA also stressed that "any information leading to his (bomber) arrest shall be rewarded."

The agency has also requested to pass on the information through mail at "info.blr.nia@gov.in," as well as two contact numbers: 080-29510900 and 8904241100.

The NIA declared the reward three days after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) handed over the probe into the case to the anti-terror agency.

The case was handed over to the NIA on March 3, following the visit of an NIA team at the blast site. The blast took place at the cafe on March 1 in Bengaluru's Whitefield area, where several people were injured following an explosion that occurred during the busy lunch hour.

'Probe team got vital clue'

Meanwhile, Home Minister, Dr G Parameshwara, stated on Wednesday that the agencies have got a vital clue.

Parameshwara told reporters, "A vital clue has been found in connection with the blast case in the investigation being jointly conducted by the state's special wing CCB and the NIA."

He added that NIA sleuths had visited the blast site on Tuesday and had begun the joint probe.

Speaking about the bomb threat email, the HM stated that the investigation in these cases is difficult. "The cooperation of international companies such as Facebook, WhatsApp and others is required to crack these cases. However, the cooperation is not forthcoming," he stated. **Agencies**

The missing link

Desperate search on for missing man in city that recorded 6,006 such cases in 2023

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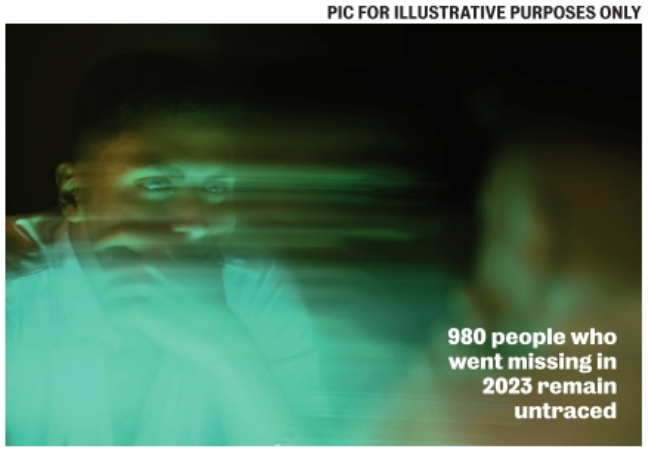

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More than 6,000 people went missing in Bengaluru in 2023, of which 980 remained untraced by the end of the year, police data has revealed.

The number of the people going missing is seeing a yearly increase. In 2021, 4,205 people went missing which increased to 4,854 in 2022 and 6,006 in 2023.

Last year, 2,262 men, 3,323 women, 2,018 boys and 203 girls went missing.

In a recent incident, a Whitefield resident, Ranjith, has been reported missing since his departure from Bengaluru on February 22.

Ranjith's spouse shared that he had embarked on a planned vacation to visit his hometown in Thrissur, Kerala, from February 22 to February 28. However, he never reached his destination.

Concerned family members initiated efforts to trace his whereabouts and filed a First Information Report (FIR) with the Whitefield Police Station.

According to police sources, Ranjith's phone has been inactive since the evening of February 22, with no outgoing calls or activity detected.

> **"With more than 10 days having elapsed since Ranjith's disappearance, the family is growing increasingly desperate for any leads or information**

Through investigation, including examination of his call logs, bank records, and assistance from a local tours and travels company near Kempegowda Bus Stand, his movements were traced until Beach Road, Pondicherry, around 2:30 am on February 23. However, no further leads have emerged since then.

Despite efforts from both the family and local authorities, Ranjith's whereabouts remain unknown. The spouse, alongside seeking support from the local police station, is appealing for additional assistance from the public and cyber police to expedite the search efforts.

"With more than 10 days having elapsed since Ranjith's disappearance, the family is growing increasingly desperate for any leads or information. I am visiting the police station very often but they keep on saying that they are investigating the case and haven't gotten any lead," she told BM.

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Full power: Electric bus fleet to surge up to 1,751

BMTC to introduce over 900 electric buses to lower operating costs and promote sustainable transport

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As the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) gears up for a future dominated by electric buses, the fleet is set to witness a surge, reaching a total of 1,751 e-buses in the near future. Currently, as part of the Smart City project and FAME2 initiative, 390 electric buses are already operational in the city. Tata Motors, a key player in this electrifying transition, is contributing 921 electric buses, with 100 recently handed over, 80 already on the road, and the remaining 20 soon to join the electric revolution.

An official said, "An additional 120 e-buses, 9 metres in length, and 320 AC e-buses are in the pipeline, bringing the grand total to 1,751 e-buses set to roam the streets of the city. Our plan includes phasing out existing Volvo AC buses in favour of e-AC buses, with 320 AC e-buses falling under gross contract control. The State government's special grant of Rs 150 crore supports this green transition. Currently, BMTC operates 800 Volvo AC buses, mainly on vital routes connecting the airport, ITPL, Whitefield, and Electronic City. The gradual replacement of these buses with 320 e-buses is on the horizon."

In anticipation of this electric influx, BMTC has designated eight depots to serve as e-bus hubs, each equipped with 14 to 15 charging stations. Additional charging stations will be strategically placed at Kempegowda Bus Stand, Shivajinagar, BTM Layout, KR Market, and Hebbal Bus Stand. Operating each e-bus comes at a cost of Rs 60 to Rs 65 per kilometre, significantly lower than the Rs 78 per kilometre spent on traditional diesel buses. Despite the substantial investment, the revenue earned from buses stands at Rs 55 per kilometre, making the shift economically viable and environmentally sustainable, added an official.

> **"Currently, we are assessing the efficiency of the electric buses plying in the city. Based on the results, we will take a call on whether to procure more electric buses or not** – A BMTC official

Another official said that BMTC may adopt more electric buses if the current fleet gets good patronage.

"Currently, we are assessing the efficiency of the electric buses plying in the city. Based on the results, we will take a call on whether to procure more electric buses or not. While the transport corporations are planning big initiatives, the stumbling block has been decreasing revenues and increasing losses. The state government is taking steps to make the transport service Corporation profitable and reforms will be brought in the State Transport Corporation to give stiff competition to private transport operators."

A committee constituted under the chairmanship of senior retired IAS officer MR Srinivasa Murthy to bring reforms to Karnataka State Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has submitted its report. Lacunae in the transport service will be addressed and unnecessary expenditure will be curbed. The changes will be seen in various corporations of KSRTC including BMTC in the coming days.

Meanwhile, officials said that the reflective tapes for buses will be adopted soon. "These tapes play a vital role in preventing accidents, particularly for transport vehicles, as mandated by the Ministry of Road Transport. According to official guidelines, a rectangular strip or a series of stripes must adorn the entire length and width of a motor vehicle to enhance visibility. Reflective tapes significantly reduce the risk of accidents involving heavy vehicles. Commercial goods vehicles weighing between 3.5 to 7.5 tonnes must affix a 20 mm wide white reflective tape on the front and red tape on the rear. Additionally, vehicles exceeding 50 mm in width require a supplementary 50 mm wide retro-reflective tape encircling the vehicle body, along with white and red tape on the front and rear respectively. These reflective tapes improve visibility, boasting a long wavelength that ensures visibility from afar, thereby contributing to road safety", added an official.

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Unsanitary conditions

Girinagar

Garbage compactors have been operating daily above the covered stormwater drain between the Srividyanagar bus stand and the Indian Oil petrol pump, resulting in severe health issues for bus passengers, residents, petrol pump employees and customers.

Work faster

Basavanagudi

There is extremely slow progress in fixing an internal sanitary pipe on NAT Road, causing inconveniences to the residents.

Where's the pavement?

Kaggadasapura

The narrow footpath has been occupied by vegetable vendors and fast-food eateries, forcing pedestrians to walk in the centre of the road.

Change of Name

I, JAMUNA C.J. W/o Sri Joyappa C.A., R/o 7th Cross, Mukthambika Badavane, Kurubarahalli, Kodugehalli, Tq: Doddaballapur, Dist: Bangalore, State: Karnataka, Pin:561203, do hereby state that in my husband's Army service records my name was wrongly entered as JUMUNA but my correct name is JAMUNA C.J. W/o Sri JOYAPPA C.A. Hence to rectify the same I have sworn an affidavit before Notary M.Radhamma, at Doddaballapur on 24.02.2024.

Citizens oppose new property tax system

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The proposed implementation of the new tax calculation system by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), aligning with the guidance value, is expected to result in a substantial rise in property taxes across Bengaluru. Concerns have been raised by citizens who believe that this adjustment would impose an increased financial burden.

In response to these concerns, the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) has gathered objections from over 10,000 citizens and is gearing up to initiate a large-scale protest against the introduction of the new property tax system, mobilising tens of thousands of people.

Srikanth Narasimhan, Founder & General Secretary of BNP, said, "The guidance value is primarily intended for commercial transactions. Using the same system for the purpose of Property Tax calculation is completely fallacious and unreasonable. The current system of classifying owners into different zones and fixing differentiated rates for each zone is a better way of calculating Property Tax. BNP demands that BBMP should retain the more reasonable way of calculating Property Tax and should retain the interests."

Representatives of the BNP recently met with Tushar Girinath, the Chief Commissioner of BBMP, where they voiced their concerns regarding the proposed property tax system. They particularly highlighted the issue given the absence of an elected BBMP Council. Despite the objections and arguments against pegging property tax to the guidance value, Commissioner Girinath conveyed that BBMP intends to proceed with finalising the draft notification within a few days. "In response to this, I made it explicitly clear to the Chief Commissioner that I refuse to comply with the new system's property tax payment and will actively mobilise tens of thousands of citizens to join in the protest and refrain from paying under the new scheme," said Narasimhan.

Focusing on the inefficiencies in tax collection by the BBMP, Lalithamba BV, Governing Council Member & Zonal Leader - BNP, Bommanahalli, said, "Bengaluru has lakhs of defaulters, including residential, commercial, and others, who have not been paying Property Tax over a long period of time. BBMP should first ensure that all defaulters pay Property Tax, including all arrears, with interest and penalty. It is imperative and fundamental that BBMP should reveal all the total property details in the city, including how it plans to collect the taxes from the existing defaulters."

Poongothai Paramasivam, Governing Council Member & Zonal Leader - BNP, said, "BBMP is notorious for its lack of audit & transparency with regard to its accounts and the projects being undertaken for Bengaluru."

Apartments out to save the day by saving water

Borewell recharge, awareness drives, rationing — citizens go all out to beat scarcity blues

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From introducing active borewell recharge initiatives to water rationing through smart meters, and from starting awareness campaigns for house helps to installing water pressure control mechanisms – many housing societies in the city are walking that extra mile to conserve every drop of water.

As the water crisis engulfs the city, resident welfare associations have come forward to play a crucial role in water conservation efforts.

Babu R, president of RWA of T-ZED Homes, an apartment complex in Whitefield, told BM that the association is roping in experts to explore options for active recharge of borewells in the area.

"Apart from rain-water harvesting and using treated wastewater for domestic use, we have also been doing passive recharging of groundwater using the aquifers. However, we have now started working with water experts to do active recharging of the borewells using our reject water," said Babu.

The situation has put the residents of Purva Sunshine in Kaikondrahalli on Sarjapura Road, into rationing mode. They are doing so with the help of smart meters. "Smart meters were installed a few years ago to track water usage and charge residents.

People seen stocking up on drinking water, on Wednesday

As per new rules, the water supply of apartments with consumption of over 275 L per day will be stopped using this technology and supply will resume the next day. This threshold has been arrived at, based on the current borewell yield and past consumption patterns. Currently, more than half of apartments in our society are crossing this threshold," said a resident.

Sobha Chrysanthemum on Thanisandra Main Road established a youth group, and they're focusing on raising awareness about water usage. They're set to kick off the campaign by the end of March. "Our society is dependent on borewells as we do not have access to Cauvery water. While six out of the original eight borewells are still yielding water, we order water tankers as well. We are closely monitoring water usage in our swimming pool and have installed sprinklers in the gardens. We have estimated the likely water shortage along with the cost it will incur and have started an awareness campaign. We are explaining how the water table in our area has gone down to nearly 1,200 feet from 600 feet a few years ago," said Subhash Panicker, RWA president.

Some other measures include maximising the efficiency of the rainwater harvesting system, bringing in water pressure control mechanisms to reduce usage in kitchen sinks and bathroom wash basins, and restricting mopping of common areas to once a week.

> **"We are explaining how water table in our area dipped to 1,200 ft from 600 ft in a few years**
>
> –Thanisandra resident

Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) has come up with multiple awareness-raising strategies for its members.

"A few key steps of water conservation such as reuse, harvesting, metering, best practices, etc are being presented in the form of posters and videos across BAF Members. We plan to release them over the next few days. We are suggesting our members to use these to engage within communities," said Satish Mallya, vice president, BAF.

BM win win situation

Readers, it is time to have some fun. We want to understand you better. And, we come with goodies. So here goes...

In 100 words, tell us about the one factor of **Raghav's music** that connects with the spirit of Bengaluru and the first 20 quirkiest of answers will get a chance to catch Raghav live in the city. Canadian singer-songwriter Raghav, renowned for several chart-toppers, will be perfoming at his **Teri Baaton Mein Tour, supported by DJ Talon, at White Lotus Club in HSR from 8 pm onwards on March 9**. Entry to 21+ years.

Scan this QR code to send us your entries. All the very best!

BangaloreMirror

PSI turns saviour, rescues child fallen in sump

In a remarkable display of valour, Police Sub-Inspector Nagaraj of Byatarayanapura Traffic police station emerged as a hero after rescuing a toddler from a precarious situation.

The incident unfolded at BEL Layout near Byadarahalli around 3.45 pm when PSI Nagaraj was en route to his duty station from his residence. During his journey, he was alerted by the distressed cries of several women gathered nearby.

He found out that a 2.5-year-old boy had accidentally fallen into a 10-foot sump tank. Without hesitation, Nagaraj sprang into action, entering the tank to rescue the child. Despite the child being unconscious, PSI Nagaraj administered CPR promptly, ultimately reviving the toddler. The child is currently under medical care at a local hospital and is showing signs of recovery. **BMB**

Progressive Kannada writers find a place in textbooks once again

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Works of various progressive Kannada writers are to be included in the Kannada language textbooks from the 2024-25 academic year in Karnataka following recommendations made by the Textbooks Revision Committee, headed by Professor Manjunatha G Hegde. Literary works of Girish Karnad, P Lankesh, Devanur Mahadeva, Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy, and Nagesh Hegde among others will be included in the textbooks.

Along with this, the revision committee in its report submitted to the government has recommended reintroduction of lessons on radical social reformers such as Periyar and Savitribai Phule. Earlier, several chapters on other subjects were also dropped from the lesson 'Social and Religious Reform Movements' in the class X history textbook. The revision committee has recommended for these to be included too.

"The Social Science textbooks have been revised giving importance to the Constitution, gender sensitivity, child rights, democratic and secular values, and scientific temper," said the committee in its report. For example, a lesson on the welfare of sexual minorities has been added in the Class X Social Science textbook and a Class VII Social Science lesson notes the 12th Century social reformer Basaveshwara as the 'Cultural Leader' of Karnataka.

Changes made earlier

Last year, the Congress government prior to the elections had made a promise to undo the changes brought in by the BJP if they were voted into power. In June, immediate changes in the content of Kannada and social science textbooks of classes VI to X, with 18 major changes, including 15 replacements of lessons were made. Following this, it had set up a committee to look into the issue with detail.

Significant changes announced by the Karnataka Textbook Society back in June replacing RSS founder KB Hedgewar's 'Nijavada Adarsha Purusha Yaragabeku' with 'Sukumara Swamiya Kathe' by Shivakotyacharya in class X Kannada textbook and replacing 'Bhoo Kailasa', a play by Parampalli Narasimha Aithal with 'Magalige Bareda Patra', a translation of Jawaharlal Nehru's letter to Indira Gandhi in Class VIII Kannada textbook. Shatavadhani R Ganesh's 'Shreshta Bharatiya Chintanegalu' was replaced with Sara Aboobacker's 'Yudha' in class X Kannada textbook.

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SECRETARY

Seegehalli Lake continues to sail in troubled waters

Citizens, activists express discontent over maintenance quality and lack of amenities at lake

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Seegehalli Lake is one of the water bodies in the city that has been in limelight for all wrong reasons. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department has been taking measures for the maintenance of the lake but the condition of the lake is far from satisfactory.

Residents and lake activists continue to complaint against the condition of the lake all these years. The lake was in the news when sewage flowed into it due to clogged drains a few years ago. Recently, the lake was in the news when saplings were damaged by the workers engaged by a contractor for the second time.

Now, the BBMP Lakes Department has taken measures to remove silt from the wetland of the lake after a gap of more than six years. Lake activists are not happy with the quality of the work.

"Though I am happy with the BBMP Lakes Department for taking up desilting of the wetland that has been pending for many years, I request the authorities to ensure that the lake is a safe place for birds, There is not much scope for aquatic life at the lake which looks like a bowl. I expect the BBMP Lakes Department to install foot lights for the benefit of the birds. These lights will not disturb them at night," said Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

Expressing concern over the lack of basic amenities at the lake, Vishwanatha Reddy, a resident, said that the authorities have constructed toilets for the benefit of people visiting the park but water supply to the toilets is yet to be provided. "I appreciate the BBMP Lakes Department for removing silt from wet land. It will prevent plastic from entering the lake along with water. Installation of street lights will be a great help for people visiting the lake in the evening," said Reddy.

Lamenting over the loss of saplings and poor quality of drain development works, Harishchandra Prasad, a resident, said that the problem with the BBMP Lakes Department is that its engineers would not like to consult or take suggestions from the lake activists while taking up developmental works. "The drain work was taken up multiple times. The authorities are yet to take measures to plant saplings to compensate for the ones that were cut down while widening the drain," said Prasad.

File photo of the Seegehalli Lake. Though the BBMP Lakes Department has taken measures to remove silt from the wetland of the lake after a gap of more than six years, quality of work is being questioned

> **"The authorities must ensure the lake is a safe place for birds, There is not much scope for aquatic life at the lake which looks like a bowl**
> – Balaji Raghotham, lake activist

Meanwhile, BBMP Lakes Department Executive Engineer Bhooprada said that development works at Seegehalli Lake were taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 1 crore. "The developmental works include desilting of the wetland, fencing of the water body and development of walking path," he said, ensuring that measures will be taken to provide water supply to the toilets as well.

Burial ground 'encroached' in Bhoganahalli

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

encroachment. The builder's men demolished the temple claiming the builder owns the land. Who are they to demolish the temple that existed on the burial ground," asked Mruthyunjaya. Claiming the land was allocated for a burial ground by the then deputy commissioner in 2009, Suresh BN, a resident of Bhoganahalli said the burial ground was exclusively for Dalits. "We have submitted a memorandum to the tahsildar but instead of clearing encroachment he advised us to meet the BBMP joint commissioner. We staged a protest in front of the BBMP joint commissioner's Office. We could not meet the joint commissioner as she was busy with some other work," said Suresh.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Dalitha Rakshana Vedike, in a letter to the commissioner of police, demanded action against BBMP engineers for colluding with some people who occupied the land meant for a market at Varthur. The letter demanded action against those who have encroached on government land at Sorahunase village. "We demand stringent action against those responsible for encroaching one acre and 39 guntas of land reserved for a burial ground at Bhoganahalli and demolishing Ankala Parameshwari temple," the letter stated. When contacted, BBMP Mahadevapura zone joint commissioner Dr Dakshayani said she would take action after verifying the facts.

Debris dumped on the burial ground

On 'brink of burn-out', resident doctors plead for better pay

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Association Of Resident Doctors (KARD) have demanded an increase in their stipends, alleging that the doctors have been demanding for a hike from the past four years to no avail. They revealed that Karnataka charges the highest academic fee for medical colleges as compared to other states and pays the residents the lowest as compared to others.

The resident doctors (Interns, Postgraduates,Super-specialty residents) working in government medical colleges across Karnataka, provide services in the outpatient department, inpatient department, intensive care units, labour rooms, casualty, and emergency departments and are the backbone of the professional healthcare services in medical colleges and attached hospitals. Karnataka has the highest academic fees for super specialty courses with Rs 2,19,500 for one year, and the stipend paid for first year resident doctors is Rs 55,000, Rs 60,000 for second year and Rs 65,000 for third year, which is lesser in comparison to many states, they said.

The KARD had planned to take out a rally on Wednesday, but according to some doctors they were stopped and so they postponed the protest by a week. They submitted a letter to the Joint Secretary Mohammad Mohsin.

"We are scheduled to work 7 days a week,for an average of 80 to 100 hours per week. Those assigned to intensive care units, labor rooms, and emergency services often work more than 100 hours each week. There is no provision for post-duty leave following a 24-hour shift, nor is there a weekly vacation. We're feeling distressed and powerless due to these outrageous working hours, a meagre compensation, and an unsafe workplace. Additionally, it is impairing our academic achievement,which could be dangerous when providing medical care because it impairs our judgment and performance. We are on the brink of a burn-out..." the letter said.

File photo of a protest by medicos in the city

Dr Hemant Reddy, Vice President of KARD, said, "Most of the state government pay around Rs 80,000 as stipends to the post graduates, however in Karnataka it is an average of Rs 50,000 only. We have to look after our basic expenses like food , accomodation and other daily needs. And on top of that the academic fees and books research activities including journal membership and our registration at state and national conferences which costs us a lot. With this meagre income we cannot save up and it is becoming a burden."

The resident doctors pointed out that even if they are highly qualified, they are expected to pay the highest fees of the country,which is forcing many of them to be dependent on their families for financial assistance.

"Additionally, we must apply for school loans, which puts our families in debt. On the basis of merit, everyone should have equal access to professional and higher education. Inequality for the "Right to education" is indirectly brought about by fee hikes, as the government bears the responsibility of ensuring fair access to education," said a KARD member. Another member pointed out that the monthly remuneration of government medical officials (MBBS) in our state is Rs. 65,000.

"The monthly remuneration of specialists in government hospitals is Rs. 85,000. Super-speciality fees per year is Rs 2.27 lakh, the highest in the country and with a net stipend which is lowest among all states. After years of sincere effort, we earn our spots on the merit system. We toil hard and put in longer working hours than medical officers, but our pay scale is nearly half that of theirs," they said.

KAUSHIK JN

Thorough check

Police officials were on high alert and all bags were being checked in the wake of a threat email, at the KSRTC bus stand, on Wednesday

This banner is injurious to health

Ad of pan masala at skywalk near Christ University is more than just an eyesore

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

KAUSHIK JN

The jarring advertisement on the skywalk near Christ Universtiy

The sale of tobacco products is banned within a 100-meter radius from educational institutions. It is the responsibility of the authorities, including the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), to ensure that the ban on sale or promotion of tobacco products near educational institutions is strictly implemented. However, it is hard to believe that anybody cares, if one takes a look at the banner put up on a skywalk near Christ University.

A huge banner of pan masala greets the pedestrians and students of Christ University as they take the skywalk. Interestingly, the skywalk is under the BBMP's control. The BBMP's revenue department allowed the advertiser to put up the banner without realising the ill-effects of the banner that promotes pan masala of a particular company.

"Putting up the banner promoting pan masala near an educational institution is against the norms. Surrogate advertising of pan masala is allowed but direct advertising of tobacco products or pan masala is not allowed. The BBMP officials must take action against those responsible for putting up such banners near an educational institution," said GR Mohan, an advocate, who had previously filed a PIL in the High Court against illegal banners and hoardings in the city.

Coming down heavily on those responsible, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said that one cannot advertise tobacco products near an educational institution. "There should be no tobacco products sales or marketing near any university. This is a blatant violation of the court orders which are not being followed," he said.

According to Dr Pragati Hebbar of Institute of Public Health, the state government has been taking several steps for tobacco control over the years and in the recent past. Dr Pragati said that the Global Adult Tobacco Survey data round 2 reveals that adults who have noticed advertisements of smokeless tobacco products at places other than the points of sale have reduced from 82.4% to 18.7%. "Hence the issue should not be seen only as a law enforcement problem but rather a lack of compliance by businesses and a space where citizens and media should also be actively involved to avoid advertising harmful products especially to youth," Dr Pragati said.

> **"Surrogate advertising of pan masala is allowed but direct advertising of tobacco products or pan masala is not allowed** –GR Mohan, advocate

When contacted, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) Suralkar Vikas Kishor said that he was not aware of the banner. "The banner comes under the jurisdiction of another department. Though I am concerned about the health of the public, the banner has been allowed by another department. It will be apt to contact that department," said the special commissioner (health).

BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil said that he has instructed the BBMP officials concerned to remove the banner.

IN BRIEF

Your 6-coach metro train has arrived at station

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has revealed details regarding the first set of prototype six coach metro trains manufactured by CRRC, China which arrived at the Hebbagodi Metro depot near Electronics city on 14 February.

The corporation noted that the train being new rolling stock, multiple tests are required to be conducted. "Coaches have been assembled before moving to the test track for static and electrical circuits testing. Later, it will be moved to mainline testing. There are a wide range of about 37 type tests lasting for four months, followed by System integration with Signaling system, Telecommunications system, Power supply system etc, tests for 45 days," BMRCL said in a statement.The statutory safety tests will include oscillation trials by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) and inspection by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS). Based on the recommendations of RDSO and CMRS, approval of the Railway Board will be obtained for introducing the trains for revenue service.

This particular train is equipped with technology such as Unattended Train Operations (UTO), Enhanced Supervision Capability from Operations Control Centre(OCC), Track Monitoring System, Hot Axle Detection System, Obstacle and Derailment Detection System. Apart from this, the coaches have electric signage above the doors to showcase routes, advertisements, notices and information.

Besides the prototype train for CBTC, one more prototype train with DTG (distance-to-go) signalling is being supplied by CRRC, China. The remaining 34 train sets (14 CBTC and 20 DTG) are being manufactured in India at Titagarh Rail Systems Limited in West Bengal. These trains will be introduced as a part of the Communication–Based Train Control (CBTC) System, commonly known as 'Driverless Technology'. It will also reduce the headway to the extent of 90 seconds from the existing two and a half minutes. Although trains are compatible for driverless operation, the BMRCL will deploy loco pilots to operate the train initially.

A prototype of six coach train, at Hebbagodi Metro depot near Electronic City, on Wednesday

Safety and security lapses at Bengaluru's lakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Narayana Nagar. While the Department of Fisheries has temporarily suspended the fishing licence at the lake owing to a drop in water level, trawling is still going on.

"The water level in the lake has gone down and thus the fishing licence has been suspended by the fisheries department. However, illegal fishing has continued. After a gap of many years, the lake is witnessing a good number of endangered bird species such as the Painted Stork and Black-headed Ibis. But illegal fishing is threatening their resources and habitat. We have seen people walking down to the lake bed as there is nobody to stop them," said Pacchapur.

Walkers from other lakes in the city highlighted issues such as an increase in stray dog population inside lake boundaries and mismanagement of lakes, much to their dismay.

"There have been instances of morning walkers coming to the lake, but had to return as gates were not opened on time. Similarly, gates are also not locked on time, leading to various illegal activities, including stealing of bamboo vegetation," said another walker at Doddakallasandra.

Locals living around Chunchaghatta Lake in Kothnur said they have seen the main entrance of the lake wide open during odd hours.

"A month ago, we saw the main gate open during late night hours. We also clicked pictures and sent them to BBMP officials concerned. Such events not only promote illegal activities inside the lake premises but also impact urban wildlife. Lakes in the city are ecological hubs and human interference during odd hours may prove detrimental to the ecology," said a resident of the area.

"We have seen children walking on the stone revetment of the lake with security personnel nowhere to be seen. This is a big lake with a 2-km pathway. Children walking on these stones risk falling over the waterbody. Moreover, these revetments house snakes and can lead to untoward incidents," said a walker at Agara Lake in HSR Layout.

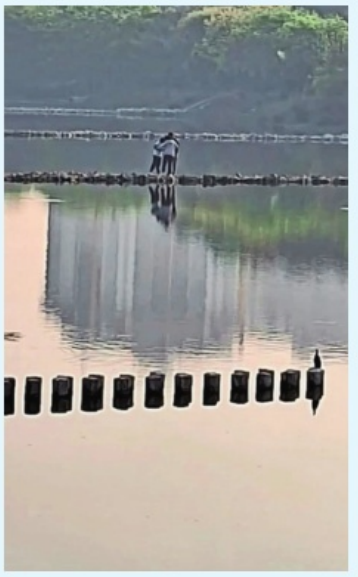
Some walkers at Nagawara Lake raised safety and security concerns in the absence of adequate security measures and the number of security personnel.

"These aspects should be covered under the lake rejuvenation process. Every lake in the city should have security guards on two shifts, if not round the clock. Moreover, there should be bicycle patrolling guards for better security," added Pachhapur.

Who goes there? Intruders in birds' space

Lake activists have flagged an incident of a person walking inside the premises of the Doddakallasandra lake, disrupting the natural habitat of the many birds that thrive in the shallow waters. They have called on the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to hire an adequate number of security guards to have an eye on the entire boundary of the lake to ensure wildlife within the lake remains undisturbed.

Arun Soundararajan, a resident who has been advocating for the protection of Doddakallasandra lake, noted that a few citizens enter the lake for the purpose of cutting grass and with them, stray dogs also make their way into the lake premises, leading to all the birds in the area to fly away. He urged the BBMP to take action and ensure that guards designated with the task of manning the lake be available at all times. Currently, they are not present through most of the day, he claimed.



Various birds including the oriental darter, painted storks and black-headed ibis, which have been deemed as Near Threatened (NT) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), thrive in the shallow waters of the lake, a transitional zone between the shore and the deep waters. The birds gather in shallow waters due to security and abundance of food presence.

A recent survey involving the Doddakallasandra lake among six other lakes in South Bengaluru had found violations in fencing to different degrees, pointing towards threat to biodiversity thriving within the habitats. Conducted by ActionAid Association, the survey noted that as a consequence, the lack of adequate fencing adds on the survival risk to biodiversity within the lake particularly in late evenings and nights when there is no guarding.

The survey noted that 73 – 124 bird species visit these lakes, with Subbaraaya Lake recording 73 and Dorekere lake recording 124 bird species. **BMB**

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personal

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I, Gajendra N R/o No.9, 5th cross, Maruthi layout, Dasarhalli, HA farm post, Bengaluru 560024 have changed my minor daughter name from Manvita Gowda to Manvita Gowda Gajendra Affidavit Dt.06/03/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Manoj Basarikatte Mohana, House No. 13, 3rd Main Road, Sharadamba Nagar, Jalahalli, Bangalore-560013 have changed my minor daughter name from Dhathri Manoj Basarikatte Mohana to Dhathri Manoj.

I, Masood R/ at No.68/6, Mosque Road, Stephens Road, Conservancy Lane, Frazer Town Post, Bangalore - 560005 have changed my minor son name from Mohammed Afaan to Mohammed Affan vide affidavit dated 6.2.2024 sworn before notary N, Mahesha Bangalore

I, PABOLU SURYAPALLAYA MANIKANTA PUNNAYA SRIPAV, S/o Nageswara Rao Pabolu, residing at Jaigalaxy Apartments, Flat G02, Block-A, Kodigehalli Main Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru 560036 have changed my name to PABOLU SURYA PALLAYYA MANIKANTA PUNNAYYA SRI PAVAN, affidavit dt: 28.02.2024 Notary S.I Balaguru, B.lore.

I, Shanmukha S/o Kallayyaswami R/o No.788, Kamalnagar, Bidar, Karnataka State 585417 today present camp at Bengaluru, have changed my name to SHANMUKHA MATHPATI, affidavit Dt.06/03/2024 Notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Sudharshan Nagabhuashana Reddy S/o Nagabhushana Reddy R/o At Nakkalahalli, Gauribidanur Taluk Karnataka-561228, Have Changed My Name To Sudharshan Nagabhushana Reddy.

I, Mohammed Mukheer Nidagundi R/o Flat.202 sakshi Lake view Apt, 235/61, 2nd cross, Jayanagar, B'luru 560082 have changed my name to Mahamad Mukheer Nidagundi affidavit Dt.06/03/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Smt. UMA. M W/o., P Krishna Raju Residing at # 41, 1st main, 1st Cross, Maruthi Layout, Doddabettahalli, Vidyaranya pura Po, Bangalore - 97. I Have Changed My Daughter Name from POORVI (Alias : POORVI K. RAJU) To RINCHANA RAJU Vide affidavit Dated: 01/03/2024 Sworn Before Notary S.R.Paramashivaiah, Bangalore.

I, Wandhekar Prajakta Navanath, W/o No-14859052L NK/MT Wandhekar Navnath Abasaheb of 1-ATC, Have Changed Name to Wandhekar Prajakta Navnath, Affidavit 28/02/24 Notary KV Mani

I Rajalakshmi Pushpavel W/o Bhaskar Shanmugham R/o plot No:5 to 6,1st A Cross, Gauravanagar, JP Nagar 7th Phase Bengalore-560078 have changed my name to RAJALAKSHMI BHASKAR for all Purposes.

I, Arjun Krishnakumar Menon S/O, Jyothi Lakshmi R/o Sahana Residency, Yelahanka, Bangalore-64, have changed my name and hereafter to be refered as Arjun Krishna.

I, Rajeswari Prabhu, W/o JC-677215W NB Sub Prabhu R of 1-ATC Have Changed Name to Rajeswari S Affidavit Dt 28/02/24, Notary KV Mani, Blr

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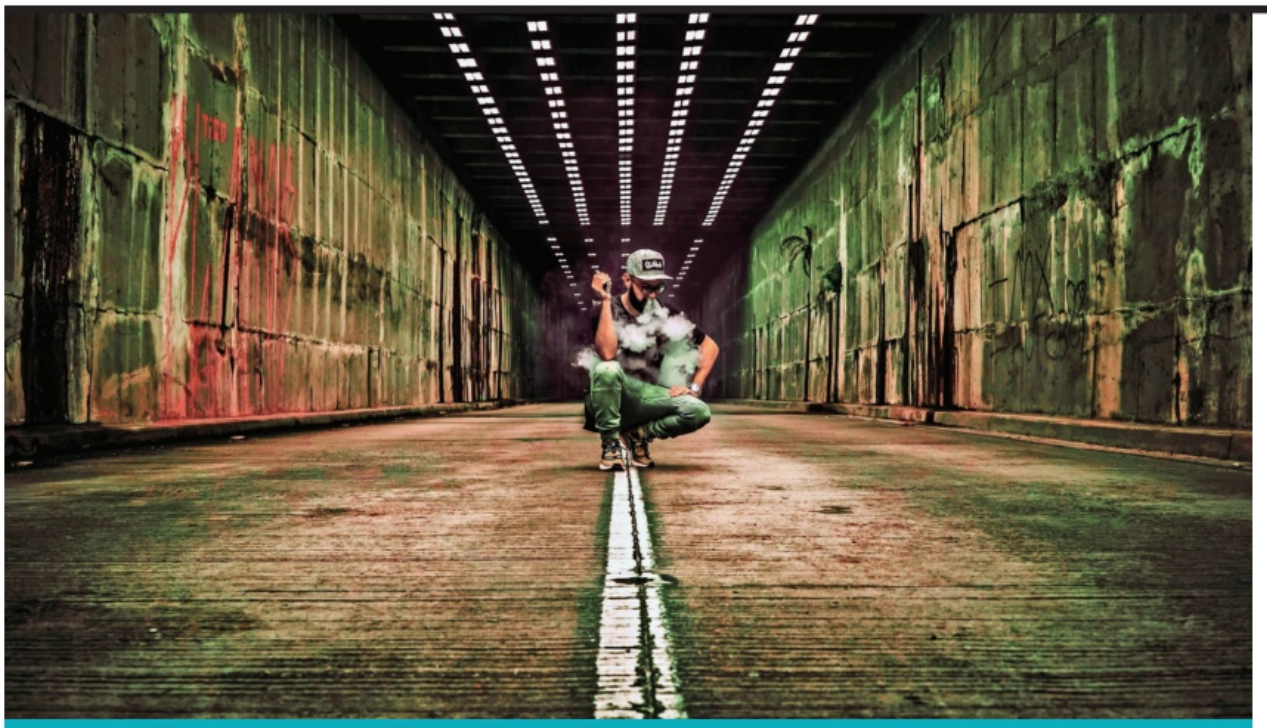

NOT COOL AT ALL

To stop teenagers vaping they need to see it as cringe

The proportion of young people who vape has grown significantly over the last year.

According to charity Action on Smoking and Health, the proportion of young people aged 11 to 17 in Great Britain who have experimented with vaping has risen from 15.8 per cent in 2022 to 20.5 per cent in 2023.

Vapes often come in gratifying and seemingly innocuous flavours, such as bubblegum, candy floss and sherbet, and in colourful and enticing packaging that is likely to appeal to younger consumers.

What's more, young people may see vaping as a safe alternative to smoking. A 2015 review from Public Health England stated that e-cigarettes were "95 per cent safer" than cigarettes. This messaging was meant for adults addicted to cigarettes – but it has led to the perception that vaping is not harmful.

Nevertheless, vapes can contain potentially harmful and addictive substances, such as nicotine and flavourings linked to lung disease.

In response, the government has announced several measures which aim to stop vaping appealing to younger consumers. This includes a ban on the sale of disposable vapes, restrictions on appealing vape flavours, introducing plainer packaging and tighter restrictions on how retailers display vapes.

This a start, but more needs to be done. A public health awareness campaign that speaks directly to young people who are currently vaping or more susceptible to vaping and seeks to make it seem cringe, not cool, could help to break the connection between vaping and social approval.

Why teens vape

The popularity of vaping may be linked to peer pressure – young people might start vaping to fit in or to impress their peers by experimenting with new things.

Young people are at a critical age where they are learning to assert their independence, and place more value on the approval and support of their peers than their parents.

Teenagers' brains are more sensitive to the feelings and excitement derived from taking risks than adults' brains are.

When young people think their peers are observing them, they are more likely to take risks – the reward response is amplified. This has been linked with teenagers being more predisposed to risky health behaviour, like vaping.

There are huge numbers of posts on social media platforms that position vaping as exciting and fun to teenagers.

Popular and trending hashtags include #vapetrick, #vapefam and #vapelife. These serve to create connections and draw teenagers into a community, feeding into their need for social approval among their peers.

To make vaping cringe among young people they need to see it as embarrassing, disgusting and culturally unacceptable – as young people are concerned with how others judge them.

Role models who focus on the negative social consequences of vaping are likely to be more effective in motivating young people to see vaping as cringe.

Break the connection with cool

One way to break the connection with social approval, in a way that would chime with young people, would be to involve social media influencers. Influencers carry significant credibility with teenagers, acting as trendsetters and affecting social norms.

How vaping is depicted in films and across media platforms, such as online video channels, also requires careful monitoring. Limiting depictions of vaping and where it is present, presenting it as undesirable behaviour rather than as cool, may go some way to limiting young people wanting to vape.

Stronger regulation of vaping content on social media platforms popular with younger people is essential, such as monitoring the use of popular hashtags.

Some platforms have started to do this. TikTok displays a warning message stating "Be informed and aware" with a link to more information on substance support when anyone searches for vaping content.

Education programmes typically focus on teaching young people how to critically evaluate information they encounter online, not how social media algorithms affect the content pushed towards them.

School education programmes should openly discuss the potential harmful impact algorithms can have on their consumption experiences.

Another measure to implement would be to raise the price of vapes. This has had a significant impact on reducing the rate of young people smoking: they are likely to be more sensitive to changes in price than adults. A planned tax increase from the government on vaping in the 2024 budget could have a positive effect here.

But care also needs to be taken in limiting teenagers' access to vaping products. When supply of the energy drink Prime – a product also popular among younger consumers – was limited, this led to a black market emerging.

Young people went to great lengths to acquire the product as a status symbol to gain social approval. Making vapes difficult to acquire could lead to young people vaping to gain kudos among their peers.

(By Emily Moorlock, Sheffield Hallam University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Sleeping for just 3-5 hours daily may increase type 2 diabetes risk: Study

People who sleep for only three to five hours daily may be at a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal JAMA Network Open, also shows that chronic sleep deprivation cannot be compensated by healthy eating alone.

"I generally recommend prioritising sleep, although I understand it's not always possible, especially as a parent of four teenagers," said Christian Benedict, Associate Professor at Uppsala University and lead researcher behind the study. The team examined the link between type 2 diabetes and sleep deprivation. Type 2 diabetes affects the body's ability to process sugar (glucose), hindering insulin absorption and resulting in high blood sugar levels.

A 2020 study showed that over 462 million people suffer from this disease. Over time, it can cause serious damage, particularly to nerves and blood vessels, and thus represents an escalating public health problem globally.

"Previous research has shown that repeated short daily rest increases the risk of type 2 diabetes, while healthy dietary habits such as regularly eating fruit and vegetables can reduce the risk," said Diana Noga, a sleep researcher at the Department of Pharmaceutical Biosciences at Uppsala University.

"However, it has remained unclear whether people who sleep too little can reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by eating healthily," Noga said in a statement.

The researchers used data from one of the largest population databases in the world, the UK Biobank, in which nearly half a million participants from the UK have been genetically mapped and responded to questions on health and lifestyle.

They followed the participants for over 10 years and found that a sleep duration of between three and five hours was linked to a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

In contrast, healthy eating habits led to a lower risk of developing the disease, but even people who ate healthily but slept less than six hours a day were still at higher risk of type 2 diabetes.

"Our results are the first to question whether a healthy diet can compensate for lack of sleep in terms of the risk of type 2 diabetes. They should not cause concern, but instead be seen as a reminder that sleep plays an important role in health," Benedict added. —PTI

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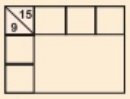
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

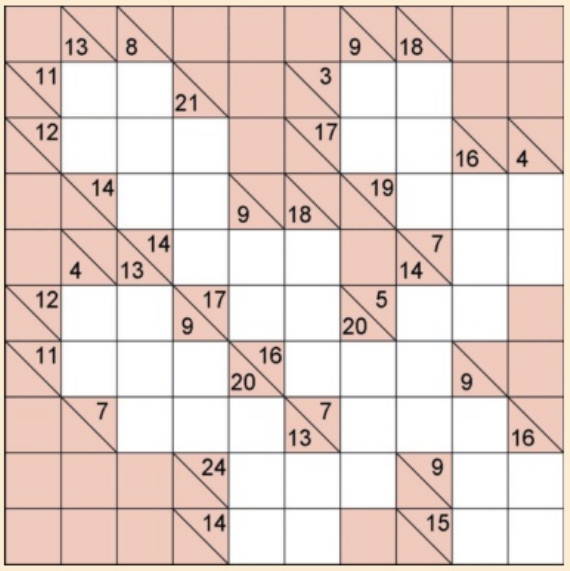
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

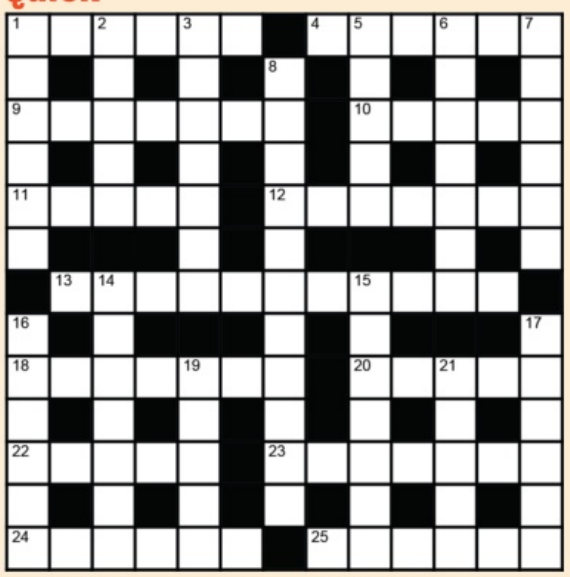


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Fat used in candles (6)
4 Run a ___ shop : be secretive of what one does, in a way? (6)
9 Dispute, strive or struggle? (7)
10 Fish basket (5)
11 Intestinal bacteria (1,4)
12 Dodged or eluded; circumvented (7)
13 They do not eat meat (11)
18 2020-21 Champions League champions (7)
20 Pertaining or belonging to everybody? (2,3)
22 Ultimate (5)
23 Seeks information from (5,2)
24 Italy's football league (5,1)
25 Securely balanced (6)

DOWN

1 Train ride requirement? (6)
2 W Indian dance (5)
3 Single occasion (3,4)
5 Milk as a prefix? (5)
6 Big Bang Theory's ____ Cooper (7)
7 Fool or deceive (6)
8 Tipu Sultan was born in this fort (11)
14 ___ Rigby: Beatles hit (7)
15 Having even and similar teeth (7)
16 Jeers at (6)
17 Careless (6)
19 Figure out (5)
21 Confused or bewildered (2,3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS U

SU TRA DZGBX'O URAXF HRQ-BODSXM HOPZXMB FAPSXM ODB FZT, SO DZHX'O WBBX QAND RU Z FZT.

Linemaro

Of all the beautiful curves in your body, your smile is my favourite

Mindchow

There are always flowers for those who want to see them

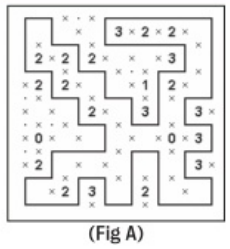
Joke of the day

It's good sportsmanship to not pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling

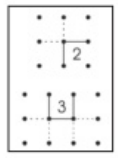
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

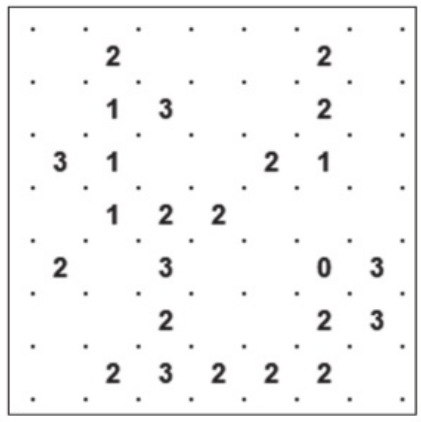


(Fig B) Not Allowed

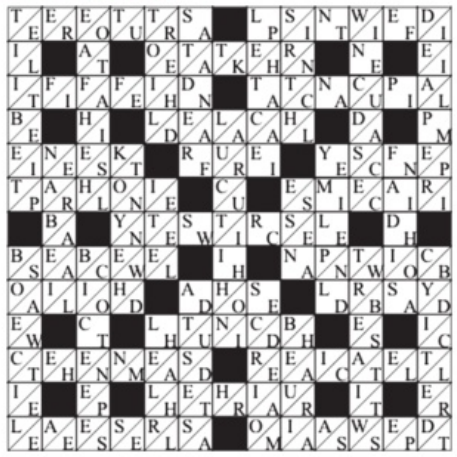
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



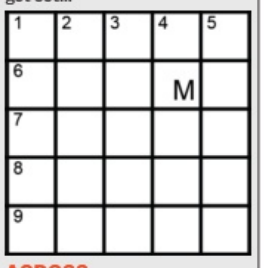
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Metre; 6 Amnia; 7 Gamma; 8 There; 9 Tents

DOWN

1 Namer; 2 Eaten; 3 Hit GT; 4 Met me; 5 Arms a

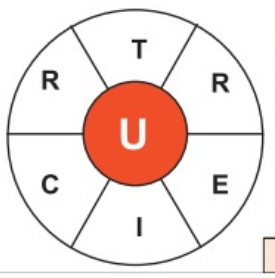
Mensapuzzle

In the two numerical sequences below, one number that appears in the top sequence should appear in the bottom sequence and vice versa. Which two numbers should be changed round?

100, 89, 76, 63, 44, 25

105, 93, 79, 61, 45, 25

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

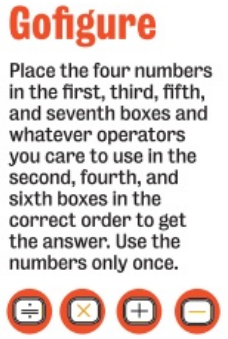
SudokuChallenge

6		8				2		4
			1	2	4			
	1						9	
		9	8	6	1	7		
	8						6	
		2	9	5	3	4		
	4						5	
			4	1	7			
1		7				6		2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 9
3 7 8 9

Medium = 6
3 4 5 8

Hard = 11
3 5 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

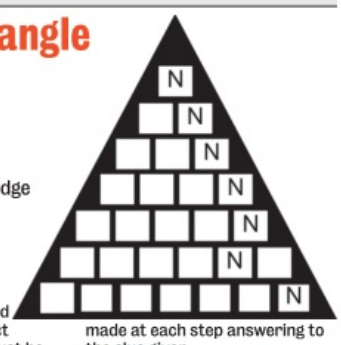
Differences: 1. Curtain is shorter. 2. Bracelet is added. 3. Purse is different. 4. Hat is smaller. 5. Collar is different. 6. Awning is different.

Riddler

A boy was in detention from talking too much when the teacher was talking. The detention teacher said, "You have to produce a 1000 word essay in 30 seconds...GO!!" The boy actually did it. How? And no he did not just write "A 1000 word essay" on his paper.

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 A's alternative
3 Hurried or sped
4 Drizzle
5 Salt bit?
6 _ to go (eager)
7 Stand before a judge



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

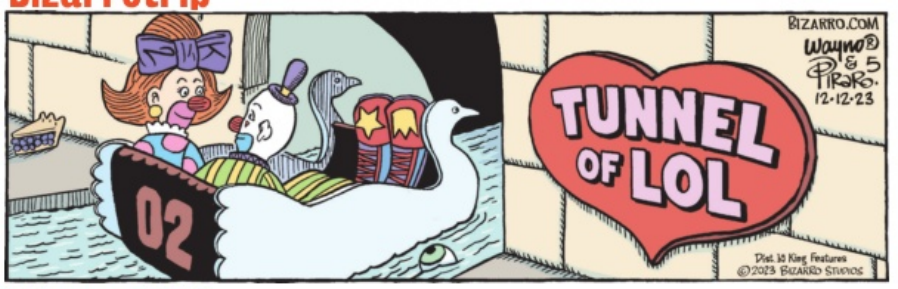
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I'M GOING TO THROW A PARTY FOR PAPPY'S WATERFRONT PALS!
HE'LL LIKE THAT!
IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL THEY'D LIKE ?
JUS' HAVE LOTS OF CHEWIN' TOBACCY AN' PLENTY OF SPITTOONS!
6-20

Bizarrotrip

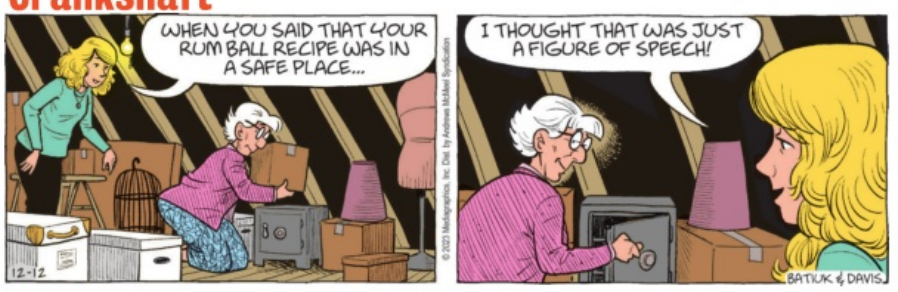


Diamond Lil

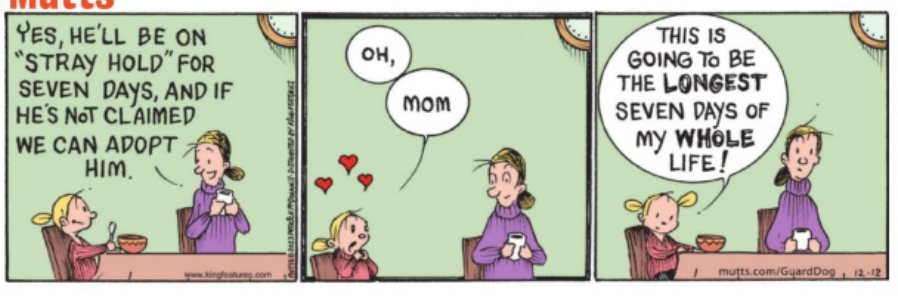
Hart of the city

WE CAN MAKE SOME SERIOUS MONEY IF WE SELL THE ANSWERS.
WAY AHEAD OF YOU.
AR
DECEMBER
PRE-ALGEBRA WEEK 7 ANSWERS FOR THE LOW LOW PRICE OF $10
DM FOR MORE INFO!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft



Mutts


YES, HE'LL BE ON "STRAY HOLD" FOR SEVEN DAYS, AND IF HE'S NOT CLAIMED WE CAN ADOPT HIM.
OH, MOM
THIS IS GOING TO BE THE LONGEST SEVEN DAYS OF MY WHOLE LIFE!
www.kingfeatures.com
mutts.com/GuardDog, 12-12

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may find negative vibrations around you, which may make you unhappy. You are advised to avoid investments in worthless assets. Your friends are not likely to be supportive today. So you should not expect more from them in terms of help, otherwise it may make you more upset. You are advised to follow your intuition before taking any important decision today.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be able to implement business plans successfully with support from your subordinates. You may be involved in some social or family get-together, which may boost your network. You are likely to go for short business-related trips, which may give you benefits in the near future.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a good day and your financial health is likely to be good. You may get benefits from your past investments. You may be in control over your spending on worthless items, which may boost your savings. Love birds are advised to be polite in conversations with their partners, otherwise there may be some conflicts between them.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy with issues related to siblings and relatives. You may plan to start some new venture with the help of your siblings and network. You are likely to get an order, which may increase your family business. Your network may help you to complete your task successfully. There may be some smart gains after a little effort.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may feel negative, due to sleeplessness last night which makes you feel dull. This may reflect in your way of working. It is advised to postpone making investment into your work. You may become a victim of conspiracy so you are advised to keep an eye on opponents and rivals. Love birds are advised to keep patience to avoid unnecessary arguments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You may get some big orders with the help of overseas contacts. You may face some moments, when you feel anxiety, but somehow you may be able to control it. Students are likely to study a subject in-depth. Investors are advised to make long-term investment in terms of fruitful gains.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be busy at work. You may face some difficulties in completing a task, which may make you upset, but somehow blessings from elders' and guides will help you come out from this messy situation. Due to workload, you may feel mentally exhausted and you may not be able to give time to your family. But your siblings are likely to support you and to maintain domestic harmony.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, things are under control and the last few days' crunch may be over. You may feel calm and cool. Your focus towards your goals may be good. You may enjoy work. Disputes in partnerships may be settled now. Litigation in property-related matters is likely to be resolved. You may also have some romantic moments with your loved ones.

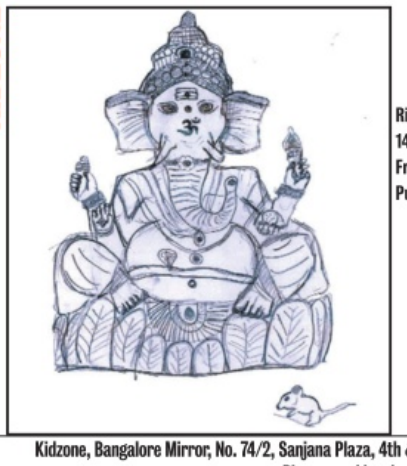
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is not a good day for you. You may be a victim of negative thoughts. You may be impatient. Your arrogance may push you back from taking difficult decisions. Your life seems to be stuck somewhere. You may be in need of blessings from your elders, which is likely to help you to come back from the messy situations. You should avoid investments in dead assets. Love birds must avoid discussion on worthless topics.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You are likely to hear some good news in terms of work and business. You are likely to enjoy your domestic life in full swings of joy. You are advised to avoid getting into frivolous arguments. Over excitement may test your patience. You may take important decisions in making investments in assets. Students are advised to remain focused on their studies.

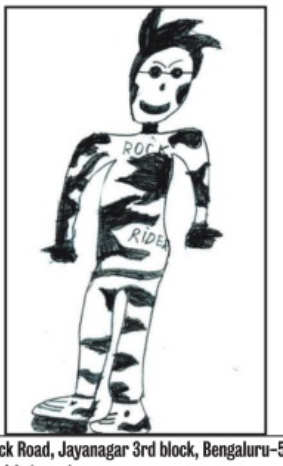
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is good for your work and you may perform well in terms of work. Your boss may give you some more responsibility in terms of promotions .Your rivals and opponents are now under control. You may lend money to make up your assets. You are likely to plan to make some investments for kids' futures.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel very dull. It may make you lazy and careless, and you are likely to be unfocused at work. Impatience may pull you down negatively. Health of kids and spouse may make you upset. You can avoid investments in assets. Love birds should avoid getting into arguments in family matters.

KIDZONE



Ritvik Mankani,
14 Years,
Frank Anthony
Public School



Yashvardhan A,
8 Years,
Delhi Public
School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 720-(24*12)-(120*3)+25
= 720-288-360+25
= 720-288-360+25
= 720+25-648
= 745-686
= 97

BULL'S EYE
cruet, cute, cutter, curt, cute, cuter, recun, trucee, true, truer, uric

RIDDLER
The boy knew the common saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words," so he drew a picture.

STRIKE OUT
TROUTS PILLIE
TAFFIN ACCLA
TIFFIN ACCLA
IAOAKEN NI
COMPETE CREEL
KBTVTLSAP
ICOLLINDEH
BILECHAP
TAHOECSMEAR
BAVEWTREED
OLIDDOSDRAY
CHELSEAOFAL
SLHSVEGETARIANS
TMNO
FOVINEN
OALOLOKSUP
DTOSHUNCHEC
WCHUNCHEC
TEEMEDRECALL
IPLEHARTE
EASELSMASSED

FAST FIVE
RETTEM
ANIMA
MAGMA
ETHER
NTTTS

QUICK
SERIEA STEADY
VEGETARIANS
TMNO
ECOLI AVOIDED
KBTVTLSAP
COMPETE CREEL
IINDHTEL
TALLOW CLOSE
TAHOECSMEAR
BAVEWTREED
OLIDDOSDRAY
CHELSEAOFAL
SLHSVEGETARIANS
TMNO
FOVINEN
OALOLOKSUP
DTOSHUNCHEC
WCHUNCHEC
TEEMEDRECALL
IPLEHARTE
EASELSMASSED

MENSA PUZZLE
61 and 63 should be reversed. The first sequence progresses -11, -13, -15, -17, -19. The second sequence progresses -12, -14, -16, -18, -20.

QUOTE UNCODE
If you haven't found something strange during the day, it hasn't been much of a day.

SUDOKU

6	7	8	5	3	9	2	1	4
9	3	5	1	2	4	8	7	6
2	1	4	6	7	8	3	9	5
4	5	9	8	6	1	7	2	3
3	8	1	7	4	2	5	6	9
7	6	2	9	5	3	4	8	1
8	4	3	2	9	6	1	5	7
5	2	6	4	1	7	9	3	8
1	9	7	3	8	5	6	4	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Ran, Rain, Grain, Raring, Arraign.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 - 9 + 3 + 8 = 9
Medium
8 - 4 - 3 + 5 = 6
Hard
3 x 8 / 4 + 5 = 11

LOOP

KAKURO

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

About insomnia

A function to launch the movie Nidradevi Next Door was held at Dodda Ganapathi Temple, Basavanagudi recently. Crazy Star Ravichandran sounded the clapboard and wished the cast and crew good luck. Praveer Shetty, who debuted as a hero in Sandalwood with Siren, will play the lead while Rishika Naik is paired opposite him.

Surag Sagar debuts as a director with this movie. Prior to this, Sagar helmed Entropy, a short film.

"I am very happy to have Ravichandran sir as chief guest for this function. He is known for making movies with different titles. It is a coincidence that my movie too has a unique title. It is about two people with insomnia. The movie revolves around them and narrates why they suffer from insomnia and what is the solution to their problem," said Sagar.

Jayaram Devasamudra is bankrolling the movie under the Sooram Movies banner. "I am supporting this movie

because of Praveen Shetty, the father of Praveer Shetty. The script of the movie is very good. It relates to all categories of audiences. The movie, apart from providing entertainment, conveys a message to society," said Devasamudra.

It is said that Praveer Shetty has been busy rehearsing for this movie. "I am playing a very interesting character of an insomniac," said Praveer.

The director had narrated the script two years ago, said Rishika Naik. At that time the female lead character was different. "Now the character that is assigned to me is quite different from the one narrated by the director two years ago. I am very happy to be part of this team," said Rishika.

At the deep end

Sonakshi learnt 'everything from scratch'

Sonakshi Sinha opened up about her career at the film industry trade show FICCI Frames here on Wednesday.

She remembered how, despite being Shatrughan Sinha's daughter, she had no experience of being on a film's set and no formal training in acting or dancing, starting off ":completely from scratch".

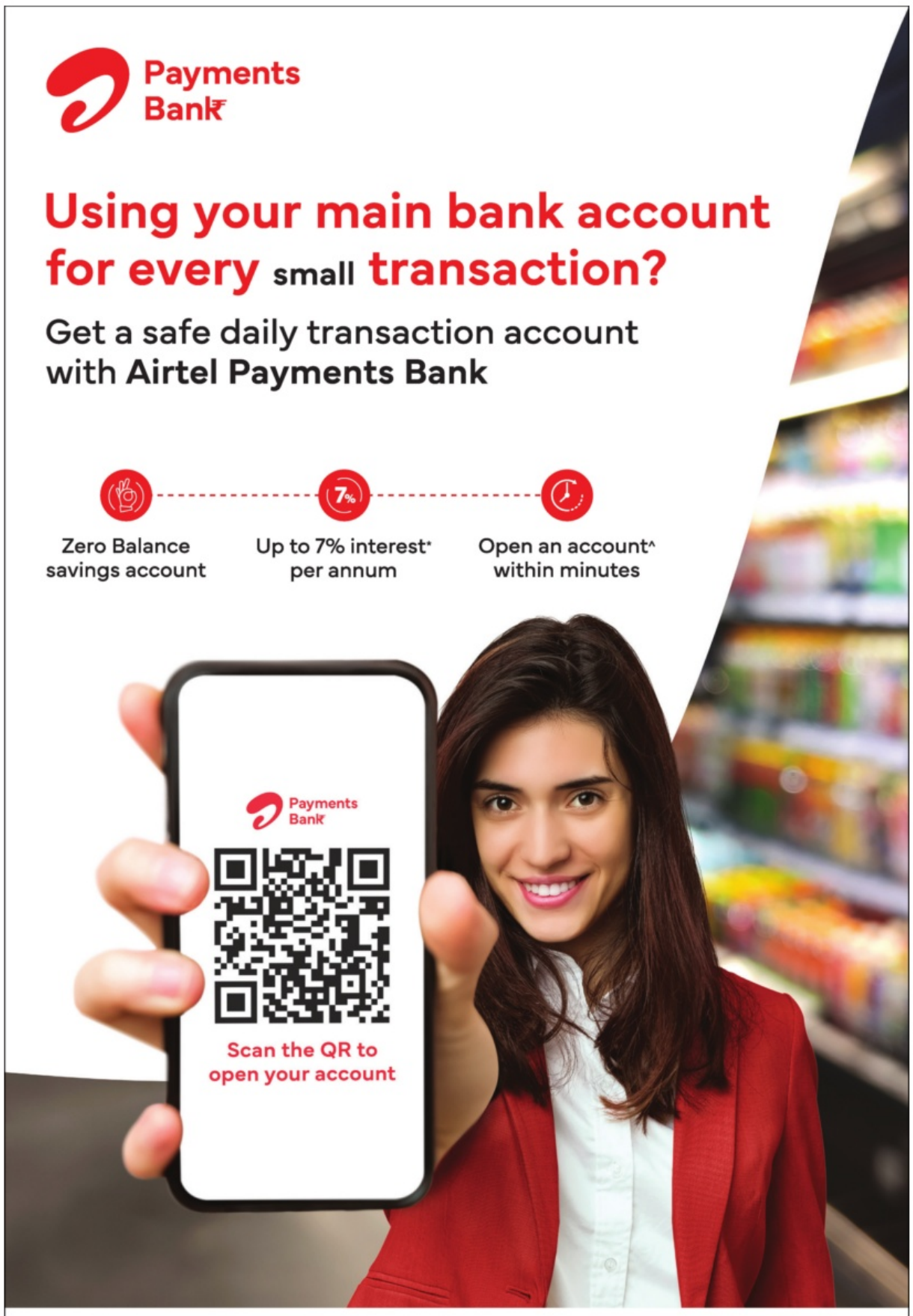
Speaking at the 24th edition of FICCI Frames, the actress, most recently seen in 'Double XL', said: "Throughout my career, I have learnt through experience. I started off completely from scratch. I had no experience of being on a film's set. I never visited my dad on sets when I was a child and I had no training in acting or dancing. I was not groomed for the profession. I was literally thrown into the deep end of the pool and was told to swim. That's how I learnt."

Sinha went on to talk about how experiences have steered her professional career arc. "Every experience for me is something to be cherished. Every person I have worked I have learnt a lot from, which has got me to a point that where Sanjay Leela Bhansali (SLB) comes to me, he has the confidence in me to offer me a role like that of Fareedan, who is very very complex," Sinha said.

Sinha will soon be seen in SLB's upcoming period drama series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'. She made her Bollywood debut in 2010 with the Salman Khan-starrer action comedy film 'Dabangg'.

Speaking about her journey as an actor, she said: "I have been working for the past 14 years and I have done all sorts of roles. I started off with these commercial masala sort of films, where it was always about the 'hero, hero and hero', which I am not complaining about because it really gave me an audience and a wide reach."

Continuing on her career's trajectory, Sinha said: "It gave me the confidence to shoulder films on my own as soon as I started playing really strong female characters..." — **IANS**


Payments Bank
Using your main bank account for every small transaction?
Get a safe daily transaction account with Airtel Payments Bank
Zero Balance savings account
7%
Up to 7% interest* per annum
Open an account^ within minutes
Payments Bank
Scan the QR to open your account

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